

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 28, and 32 such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of presenting an audiovisual signal to a user's audiovisual display monitor comprising:

receiving a command from the user;

responding to the command by assigning an assignable computing device (ACD) to the particular user only, such that the ACD is not available for concurrent communication with other users;

establishing a communications link between the user's audiovisual display monitor and the ACD;

presenting a menu containing a selection of video programs to the user's audiovisual display monitor with the ACD;

receiving a signal from the user selecting one of the video programs for display;

tracking availability of audiovisual serving devices and video programs;

routing the selected video program from the ACD to the user's audiovisual display monitor if the selected video program is one of video games, internet access, or computer application programs;

assigning an available audiovisual serving device having the selected video program stored to deliver the selected video program to the user if the selected video program is not provided by the ACD;

breaking said communications link between the user and the ACD in response to selecting;

establishing another communications link between ~~an~~ the assigned audiovisual ~~server~~ serving device having stored thereon the selected video program and the user's audiovisual display monitor; and

routing said selected video program from the assigned audiovisual serving device to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

2. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein presenting includes:
displaying graphical images representative of buttons on the user's audiovisual display monitor.
3. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein establishing includes:
receiving commands from an in-room communication device with the ACD; and
responding to said commands with responsive graphical images displayed on the user's audiovisual display monitor.
4. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein receiving commands include:
demodulating an RF signal containing said commands received over said communications link.
5. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein said responding to said commands include:
modulating an RF carrier with a signal carrying said responsive graphical images;
and
transmitting said RF carrier to the user's audiovisual display monitor.
6. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said commands select the one of the video programs for display.

7. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said presenting includes:
presenting a series of menus containing a selection of video programming to the
user's audiovisual display monitor.
8. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein said series of menus reflects the
currently available video programs.
9. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein said series of menus reflects a set of
user preferences.
10. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein routing said selected video program
includes;
obtaining the video signal from an audiovisual serving device to the user's video
modulating the video signal onto an RF carrier; and
transmitting said RF carrier to the user's audiovisual display monitor.
11. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ACD causes the selected video
program to be transmitted over the communications link to the user's audiovisual display monitor.
12. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein a host computing device in
communication with the ACD causes the video program to be transmitted over the
communications link to the user's audiovisual display.
13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:
presenting a broadcast channel on the user's audiovisual display monitor prior to
said receiving.
15. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said responding further includes:
having a host computing device in communication with the user's audiovisual
display monitor assign an ACD to the user.
16. (Previously amended) An apparatus for presenting an audiovisual signal to a user's
audiovisual display monitor comprising:
a programming subsystem;
a Room Communication Subsystem (RCS);
a Site Management Subsystem (SMS);
said RCS connecting a plurality of user's audiovisual display monitors to the
system;
said programming subsystem including a plurality of audiovisual serving devices
communicating with the user's audiovisual display monitor over said RCS
to deliver program content, the audiovisual serving devices including
Assignable Computing Devices (ACDs) capable of generating interactive
menus and of delivering program content in a form of at least one of video
games, internet access, and computer applications programs;
said SMS assigning an Assignable Computing Device (ACD) audiovisual serving
device to a particular user, such that the ACD is not available for concurrent
communication with other users, to present an interactive menu containing
a selection of video programs to the particular user's audiovisual display
monitor over said RCS; and

wherein selecting a video program from said menu other than video games, internet access, or computer application programs available from said ACD breaks the communication link between said ACD and the user's audiovisual display monitor and establishes a communication link between the user's audiovisual display monitor and an audiovisual serving device available to deliver the video program.

17. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein said menu display image is representative of buttons on user's audiovisual display monitor.

18. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein said ACD receives commands from an in-room communication device; and
responds to said commands with a responsive display image on the user's audiovisual display monitor.

19. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 18 wherein receiving said commands includes demodulating an RF signal containing said commands received over said RCS.

20. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 18 wherein responding to said commands includes:
modulating an RF carries with a signal carrying said responsive display images; and
transmitting said RF carries to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

21. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 18 wherein said commands select the video programs for display.

22. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein said ACD presents a series of menus containing a selection of video programs to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

23. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 22 wherein said series of menus reflects the currently available video programs.

24. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 22 wherein said series of menus reflects a set of user preferences.

25. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein said SMS in communication with said ACD causes a video program to be transmitted by said programming subsystem to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein said programming subsystem presents a broadcast channel prior to said ACD presenting said menu.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of presenting an audiovisual signal to a user's audiovisual display monitor comprising:

receiving at a host computing device a command from the user;

responding to the command by assigning an assignable computing device (ACD) to the user for providing an interactive menu to the user through the user's audiovisual display.

presenting the interactive menu containing a selection of video programs to the user's audiovisual display monitor with the ACD;

receiving commands from an in-room communication device with the ACD;

responding to the commands with responsive graphical images displayed on the user's audiovisual display monitor;
tracking at the host computing device availability of audiovisual serving devices for delivering video programs;
receiving at the ACD a command from the user selecting a video program offered in the interactive menu;
assigning the ACD as an audiovisual serving device if the video program selected is one of video games, internet access, or computer application programs available from the ACD;
assigning an available audiovisual serving device to deliver the video program selected if the ACD is not assigned as the audiovisual serving device;
[[and]]
breaking said communications link between the user and the ACD in response to selecting;
establishing another communications link between the assigned audiovisual serving device having stored thereon the selected video program and the user's audiovisual display monitor; and
routing the video program selected from the audiovisual serving device assigned to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

29. (Previously Added) The method of claim 28, wherein the interactive menu reflects currently available video programs.

30. (Previously Added) The method of claim 28, wherein the interactive menu reflects a set of stored user preferences.

31. (Previously Added) The method of claim 28, wherein the host computing device in communication with the ACD assigns the available audiovisual serving device.

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for presenting an audiovisual signal to a user's audiovisual display monitor comprising:

- a programming subsystem including a plurality of audiovisual serving devices for delivering program content;
- a Room Communication Subsystem (RCS) for linking the user's audiovisual display monitor with the programming subsystem;
- a Site Management Subsystem (SMS) for tracking availability of program content and audiovisual serving devices for delivering the program content, and for assigning an Assignable Computing Device (ACD) audiovisual serving device to a user's audiovisual display monitor to present an interactive menu containing a selection of available video programs, and in response to a user's selection of available program content from the interactive menu for assigning one of the available audiovisual serving devices to deliver program content selected over the RCS to the user's audiovisual display monitor; [[and]]

wherein the ACD is assigned to deliver interactive program content that includes at least one of video games, internet access, and computer applications programs[.]; and

wherein selecting a video program from said menu other than video games, internet access, or computer application programs available from said ACD breaks the communication link between said ACD and the user's audiovisual display monitor and establishes a communication link between the user's audiovisual display monitor and an audiovisual serving device available to deliver the video program.

33. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the SMS stores a set of user preferences and wherein the interactive menu is based upon the set of user preferences.

34. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the programming subsystem includes a Scheduled Programming Subsystem (SPS) for presenting scheduled program content, a Linear Programming Subsystem (LPS) for presenting on-demand program content, and an Interactive Programming Subsystem (IPS) for presenting interactive program content.

35. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the IPS includes the ACDs for providing interactive menuing.

36. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the ACDs of the IPS also provide the interactive program content.

37. (Canceled)